

Our Family Our Children Our Laws



Carrier Sekani Family Services

Carrier Sekani Nations



- Shared Culture with numerous dialects.
- Matrilineal
- Men and women share equally in governance roles.
- Carrier Guiding Principles contained within the *bah'lats*.
- These guiding principles:
 - Honesty,
 - Respect,
 - Caring,
 - Responsibility,
 - Balance
 - Sharing,
 - Harmony
 - Wisdom
- Holistic (life Cycle)
- The Guiding Principles shaped all aspects of Carrier Community and culture.

Right to Keep Children Safe

- Assuming responsibility for the care and protection of children, as well as the maintenance of family structures and governance systems are expressions of self determination
- First Nations have an inherent Aboriginal right to be self determining which includes the ability to use Carrier and Sekani institutions in maintaining social order in their communities
- Indigenous rights are further affirmed in Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007)

- Carrier Sekani Family Services has worked hard to reassert control in areas that have been sources of attack on community values and teachings and preservation of family and guardianship of children



The Research Project

- Research is being completed at a community level to determine how services should evolve so that they are culturally based and governed under the laws of the Carrier peoples
- The Project relies heavily on community involvement and input

Project Goal

- The overall goal of the research will be provide Community specific information to inform the development of Carrier Sekani Family Services policy and legislation Similar to the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*

Project Objectives

- To examine the legislative, cultural, social, political and historical context of First Nations communities relative to the delivery of child welfare services to First Nations peoples in British Columbia;
- To document traditional Carrier child welfare practice;
- To identify roles and responsibilities at a community level; and
- To identify the scope and standards of quality child Welfare services to Aboriginal peoples in British Columbia, and specifically Carrier peoples.

Methods

- The research will use qualitative methods and information will be obtained through a literature review, focus groups and key informant interviews.

Results

- Interviews are being completed in 2011 and results are expected thereafter

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